

Application No. 10/617,041
Amendment Dated March 2, 2005
Reply to Office Action of December 2, 2004

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS:

By the present Amendment, claim 49 is amended. No new matter has been added. Claims 1 – 56 are pending in the application, with claims 1, 20, 29, 43 and 49 being independent.

Applicant has carefully considered the contents of the Office Action and respectfully requests reconsideration and reexamination of the subject application in view of the explanations noted below.

Specification Objections

In paragraph 1, the specification is objected to for informalities in paragraphs 17, 20 and 32. The above amendments to paragraphs 17, 20 and 32 obviate the objections to the specification.

Claim Objections

In paragraph 2, claim 49 is objected to for an informality. The above amendment to dependent claim 49 obviates the objection to the claim.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

Claims 1 and 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,065,292 to Aubrey. Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection, since the Aubrey patent clearly does not disclose, teach or render obvious the subject matter of independent claims 1 and 20.

Independent claims 1 and 20 each recite, inter alia, an assembly having a transformer that has a power supply fitting and a power output fitting. Claim 1 further recites that the power supply and power output fittings are quick release fittings. Claim 20 further recites that the power supply and power output fittings are push-in wiring terminals.

U.S. Patent No. 5,065,292 to Aubrey (the Aubrey '292 patent) discloses a table lamp 100 and a conversion apparatus that converts the lamp from incandescent to fluorescent operation, as shown in FIG. 2. A ballast assembly 300 has a slot 302 (FIG. 1) adapted to receive a wire 13 from the lamp as a quick-wire connection 301. The end of wire 13 is received by a slot 302 that has piercing prongs 506, as shown in FIGS. 12 and 13. A cover 303 is slidably mounted on the ballast assembly to secure the wire 13 thereto. Prongs 306 of the ballast assembly may be plugged into a typical wall outlet receptacle. The Aubrey '292 patent does not disclose or suggest that the ballast assembly 300 power supply and power output fittings that are adapted to receive ends of electrical power supply and power output wires, as recited in independent claims 1 and 20. Power is supplied to the Aubrey ballast assembly by plugging the ballast assembly into a typical wall outlet. The Aubrey ballast assembly is intended to replace the existing plug of the lamp cord (col. 4, lines 35 – 41). Thus, the Aubrey ballast assembly is intended to receive the lamp cord and then to be plugged into a typical wall outlet. Thus, there is no motivation or suggestion to modify the Aubrey ballast assembly to removably receive a second electrical wire as recited in independent claims 1 and 20. Furthermore, the Aubrey '292 patent does not disclose a second quick-release connection as recited in independent claim 1 or a second push-in wiring terminal as recited in independent claim 20. Therefore, the Aubrey '292 patent does not anticipate or render obvious independent claims 1 and 20, and their respective dependent claims 2 – 19 and 21 – 28.

Claims 2 – 19 and 21 – 28, being dependent upon claims 1 and 20, respectively, are also allowable for the above reasons. Moreover, these dependent claims recite additional features further distinguishing them over the cited patents, such as the transformer having a mountable side adapted to mount the transformer to an object of claims 5 and 22; a dimmer switch connected to the electrical power supply wire of claim 12; and the lamp holder having an input connector that is adapted to be connected to the electrical power output wiring terminal of the transformer with a lamp holder lead wire of claim 25. Therefore, dependent claims 2 – 19 and 21 – 28 are not anticipated or rendered obvious by the cited patents, particularly within the overall claimed combination.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 1 and 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 3,231,731 to McDonald in view of U.S. Patent No. 2,713,668 to Gibilisco. Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection, since the McDonald patent in view of the Gibilisco patent clearly do not disclose, teach or render obvious the subject matter of independent claims 1 and 20.

Independent claims 1 and 20 each recite, inter alia, an assembly having a lamp holder having an electrical power supply connector and an electrical power output connector, both of which are adapted to receive electrical wires.

The McDonald patent discloses a low voltage lighting system in which a plurality of lighting fixtures 16, 17 and 18 are connected to a transformer 12, as shown in FIG. 1. The transformer has a first electrical wire 11 supplying power to the transformer and a second electrical wire 14 leaving the transformer. The *single* second electrical wire 14 is connected to a plurality of lighting fixtures 16, 17 and 18. A clamp 600 secured to each of the lighting fixtures mechanically and electrically engages the second electrical wire 14. The clamp is slidable along the wire 14 such that the lighting fixtures may be repositioned as desired. Thus, the McDonald patent discloses a single electrical cord 14 that electrically connects the plurality of lighting fixtures, as shown in FIGS. 1 - 3. The electrical cord 14 passes through the clamp 600, as shown in FIGS. 3 and 6. There is no suggestion or motivation to provide each lighting fixture with a lamp holder having power supply and output connectors, each of which receives a different wire, as recited in independent claims 1 and 20.

The Gibilisco patent is cited for disclosing a quick detachable electrical connector. However, the combination of the McDonald and Gibilisco patents is not proper since the McDonald patent does not have input and output connections at each lighting fixture. Furthermore, such modification of the McDonald '731 patent would defeat the intended purpose of the McDonald patent, i.e., that a single cord 14 may be used upon which the clamps 600 slide to reposition the lighting fixtures as desired. Col. 2, lines 14 - 18. A quick-release fitting secured to each lighting fixture would prevent the lighting fixtures from being moved to a new position, thereby defeating a stated object of the invention. Therefore, the

McDonald and Gibilisco patents do not disclose or render obvious the claimed features of Applicant's invention as recited in independent claims 1 and 20, or their respective dependent claims 2 – 19 and 21 – 28.

Claims 2 – 19 and 21 - 28, being dependent upon claims 1 and 20, respectively, are also allowable for the above reasons. Moreover, these dependent claims recite additional features further distinguishing them over the cited patents, such as the transformer having a mountable side adapted to mount the transformer to an object of claims 5 and 22; a dimmer switch connected to the electrical power supply wire of claim 12; and the lamp holder having an input connector that is adapted to be connected to the electrical power output wiring terminal of the transformer with a lamp holder lead wire of claim 25. Therefore, dependent claims 2 – 19 and 21 – 28 are not anticipated or rendered obvious by the cited patents, particularly within the overall claimed combination.

Independent claims 29, 43 and 49 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,283,612 to Hunter. Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection, since the Hunter patent clearly does not disclose, teach or render obvious the subject matter of independent claims 29, 43 and 49.

Independent claims 29 and 43 recite, inter alia, a method of installing or removing a low voltage luminaire assembly in which the lamp holder and the transformer are attached to the same area. Independent claims 43 and 49 each recite, inter alia, a lamp holder having wires removably connected thereto.

The Hunter patent discloses a light emitting diode light strip, as shown in FIG. 1, in which a hollow tube 20 (FIG. 2) houses a printed circuit board 22 (FIGS. 3 and 4). Plugs 62 connected to opposite ends of the tube 20 connect the tube to a connector of a power supply 64 or to a connector of another tube, as shown in FIG. 16. The wires connecting the plugs 62 to the tube 20 are not removable from the tube. Furthermore, the wires connected to the power supply 64 are not removable from the power supply. As shown in FIG. 15, the power supply 64 is not intended to be mounted in the same area as the hollow tube 20, as the power supply is mounted on the floor and the tube is mounted on the upper shelf of a cabinet.

However, the Hunter patent does not disclose securing the hollow tube 20 and the power supply to the same area as recited in independent claims 29 and 43. There is no disclosure or suggestion of mounting the power supply 64 in the vicinity of the hollow tube 20. Furthermore, one of the stated objects of the invention is to position the power supply in a location remote from the light strips. Cols. 2 - 3, lines 62 - 1. Thus, the Hunter patent cannot be modified to attach the power supply and the hollow tube to the same area as it would defeat an object of the invention. Therefore, the Hunter patent does not disclose or render obvious the claimed features of Applicant's invention as recited in independent claims 29 and 43.

The Hunter patent does not disclose the hollow tube and the power supply having removable supply and output wiring terminals, as recited in independent claims 43 and 49. The hollow tube 20 of the Hunter patent does not have removable wires that are releasable therefrom, as recited in independent claims 43 and 49. End caps through which electrical wires pass into the hollow tube are secured to the hollow tube with a cement or adhesive to hermetically seal the tube. Col. 5, lines 30 - 46. Thus, the electrical wires are not removable from the hollow tubes.

The power supply 64 of the Hunter patent also does not have removable wires that are releasable therefrom, as recited in independent claims 43 and 49. As shown in FIG. 1, neither of the electrical wires extending from the power supply 64 are removable.

Therefore, the Hunter patent does not disclose or render obvious the claimed features of Applicant's invention as recited in independent claims 43 and 49.

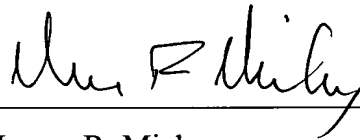
Since the Hunter patent does not disclose or render obvious independent claims 29, 43 and 49, their respective dependent claims 30 - 42, 44 - 48 and 50 - 56 are also allowable for the above reasons. Moreover, these dependent claims recite additional features further distinguishing them over the cited patents, such as attaching a plurality of lamp holders of claim 30; adjusting a position of one of the transformer and the lamp holder of claim 46; and the lamp holder having a mountable side adapted for mounting the lamp holder to an object of claim 50. Therefore, dependent claims 30 - 42, 44 - 48 and 50 - 56 are not anticipated or rendered obvious by the cited patents, particularly within the overall claimed combination..

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In view of the foregoing amendment and comments, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 1 – 56 are in condition for allowance. Prompt and favorable action is solicited.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Marcus R. Mickney", is written over a horizontal line.

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